



Reply to
Attention of

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Multi-National Brigade (East)
Camp Bondsteel
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Gov. Schwarzenegger appoints MNB(E) commander Adjutant General of the California National Guard

CAMP BONDSTEEL, Kosovo – California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has announced the appointment of Brig. Gen. William H. Wade II as adjutant general of the State Military Forces for the State of California. Wade is currently serving as the commanding general for Multinational Brigade (East) in Kosovo.

“I am both honored and humbled Governor Schwarzenegger has asked me to lead the military forces of the State of California. I look forward to this opportunity to use my training and experience to continue to serve the people of this state and the nation,” said Wade. “I share the Governor’s dedication to protecting public safety and making certain the California National Guard is trained, equipped and always ready to provide assistance whenever and wherever we are needed.

There are approximately 22,000 men and women serving in the California Army and Air National Guard. Of that number, 5,400 are currently serving on active duty in Iraq, Afghanistan, Bosnia, Kosovo, Guantanamo Bay and Egypt.

While change of command preparations are underway in the brigade headquarters, Wade remains focused on the current Multinational Brigade East mission. “I will depart soon and

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return to California to assume this new post but until that time comes, my attention is on the task at hand – maintaining a safe and secure environment in our area of responsibility,” said Wade.

A 35-year California National Guard veteran, Wade expects to assume his new duties in early September 2005. Colonel John Harrel, the current MNB(E) chief of staff, will replace Wade as the commanding general of the brigade. A change of command and promotion ceremony will take place at Camp Bondsteel during the third week of August 2005.

“I depart knowing that the brigade will be in excellent hands,” said Wade. “Col. Harrel has been an integral part of this mission since it began. He is precisely postured to assume command; he’s up on all the issues, and he knows all the principals and key players. I am fortunate to have such a highly qualified successor,” he said.

Wade’s departure does not signal a lessening of the U.S. commitment to the mission in the Balkans; rather it is a reflection of the quality of Wade’s character and leadership. “General Wade is a man of integrity,” said Schwarzenegger. “He’s committed to guiding the National Guard through the challenges it faces while working to ensure the Guard is at its highest level of readiness and ability to respond to any emergency both at home and abroad,” he said.

“I leave command of Multinational Brigade (East) with mixed emotions: I am excited about this new opportunity and challenge; however, the mission is not complete and I am reluctant to depart mid-course. This command has been the most challenging, most exciting, and most rewarding of any assignment of my 35 years in the military,” said Wade. “Man for man and woman for woman, Multinational Brigade (East) is – by far – the most professional and technically proficient force I have ever been associated with,” said Wade.

The Military Department is responsible for the command, leadership, and management of the California Army and Air National Guard whose purpose is to provide military service support to California as well as the nation. The California National Guard protects the public

safety of the people of California by providing military support to civil authorities during natural disasters and other emergencies, and provides support to the local communities. These services are provided through 118 armories, 10 air bases, and three army bases located throughout California. The California National Guard is the largest National Guard force in the United States.

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